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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

December 18, 2003

For immediate release

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PRIOR CELEBRATES 38-YEAR STATE GEOLOGY CAREER WITH RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE FRIDAY

IOWA CITY — After 38 years of service to the state of Iowa, Jean C. Prior, a research geologist with the Iowa Geological Survey (IGS), is retiring. Prior will be honored with an open house Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room 115 of Trowbridge Hall on the University of Iowa campus.

Throughout her career, Prior has displayed the importance of geology in protecting and preserving Iowa's natural resources, created a greater appreciation among Iowans of the state's geological landscape and developed a large body of information on Iowa's geology.

"Jean Prior, by herself, has been one of the state's most valuable natural resources," said Bob Libra, Iowa's state geologist. "Her ability to describe and explain geology and natural resources, and make them interesting and understandable to the general public, has been so important. We'll truly miss her."

The body of work that Prior has compiled during her career will continue to be used well into the future, Libra said.

"Jean has put together an incredible amount of information on the state's landscapes and landforms," he said. "She's been both mentor and inspiration to so many of our staff."

Prior became interested in geology and the outdoors at an early age, and still remembers finding her first fossils on a trip through New York state. College geology classes hooked her, she said.

“I feel fortunate to have been able to work in this area for so many years,” Prior said.

As a research geologist with IGS, Prior has identified, researched and interpreted Iowa’s geology and groundwater resources and worked with others to solve environmental problems. She has also given presentations on Iowa’s geology, helped prepare exhibit materials for museums and nature centers, and provided technical and editorial services for educational materials, including the magazine Iowa Geology.

In addition, Prior has written a number of books, including the recently published “Iowa Groundwater Basics” and the 1991 “Landforms of Iowa.” She also served as an expert host for Iowa Public Television’s four-part feature about Iowa’s landscape, “Land Between Two Rivers.”

“Jean has always been interested in making Iowa’s natural resources interesting and understandable to the public,” said Bernie Hoyer, special assistant to the director of the DNR. “Over the past 38 years, for many Iowans, Jean has been Iowa geology. She has been their window into understanding Iowa’s landscape. She showed you how to appreciate the subtle differences in Iowa’s landscape that tells the story of Iowa’s incredible geological past.”

Prior was also named a 2003 Golden Dome Employee of the Year, the highest form of recognition given to state employees.

She hopes that Iowans continue to recognize the importance of the state’s geology in many areas.

“Iowans should always keep in mind that geology has a role to play in solving environmental problems,” Prior said. “That voice always needs to be included when environmental issues are discussed.”

Upon her retirement, Prior plans to travel throughout the country and abroad to visit family and friends, but to also stay involved with interpretive geologic work.

“I don’t intend to leave the scene completely,” she said. “I will continue to contribute where I can. You have to feel like you’re making a contribution — that’s motivated me through years of work.”

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131.

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GASOLINE DEMAND, PRICES DECREASE AFTER HOLIDAY

DES MOINES — According to the Iowa DNR's Dec. 15, 2003 fuel price survey, gasoline prices are \$0.01 lower than one month ago, averaging \$1.42 for a gallon of self-serve, regular unleaded gasoline. The price decrease was due to seasonal reduction in driving demand after the Thanksgiving holiday. Prices are still higher than year-ago levels, due mainly to the increased cost of crude oil.

"Gasoline prices decreased after the Thanksgiving holiday, as demand decreased," said DNR Energy Analyst Jennifer Moehlmann. "Although supply is good and demand is low, gasoline prices will remain vulnerable to increases in crude oil prices."

According to the Dec. 15 survey, prices across the state ranged from \$1.24 to \$1.55 per gallon and are \$0.12 higher than this time last year. Retail conventional unleaded gasoline prices in Iowa are \$0.01 lower than the national average of \$1.43 per gallon and \$0.01 higher than the regional average of \$1.41 per gallon.

The average price for regular unleaded with ethanol was \$1.39 per gallon. Ethanol-blended gasoline currently represents 62.8 percent of the market share.

Crude oil finished trading on Dec. 17 at \$33.38 per barrel, \$0.45 more than last month. One year ago, crude was \$30.43 per barrel. Crude oil prices have risen upon trader concerns regarding relatively low levels of supply. National crude oil inventory is at 272.8 million barrels, 4.8 percent lower than the previous year and below the normal range. The DNR expects crude oil prices to remain volatile while U.S. inventories are relatively low, with prices ranging between \$30 and \$34 per barrel.

The average price of self-serve diesel fuel on Dec. 15 was \$1.50, down \$0.01 from last month and \$0.05 higher than the regional average of \$1.45 per gallon. Diesel fuel was \$1.45 per gallon one year ago.

Propane

The Dec. 15 survey found the average retail price of propane was \$1.03 per gallon. This is \$0.02 higher than the previous month and 18 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year (\$0.87 per gallon). The Iowa average retail propane price is \$0.22 below the regional average of \$1.25. Traditionally, propane prices begin to rise during cold weather, hitting their peak in late winter. Propane prices are also tied to natural gas prices and may rise if natural gas prices continue at higher levels.

Heating Oil Prices

The Dec. 15 survey found the average retail price of No. 2 heating oil was \$1.15 per gallon. This is \$0.01 higher than last month and 7.5 percent above the price of heating oil at this time last year (\$1.07 per gallon). The Iowa average retail heating oil price is \$0.11 below the regional average of \$1.26. The United States' inventories are now in the normal range of the five-year average. Traditionally, heating oil prices begin to climb in the fall, hitting their peak in late winter.

Natural Gas

Natural gas closed at \$6.66 on Dec. 15, \$2.21 higher than last month and 27 percent higher than one year ago. Natural gas prices have seen a meteoric rise, increasing nearly 50 percent the past few weeks as cold weather moved into the Midwest and Northeast. The DNR expects natural gas prices to remain volatile and trade based on the weather forecast, with colder temperatures increasing prices and warming trends decreasing prices. Consumers are expected to pay 10 to 30 percent more for natural gas this winter, but that number could change if the winter is significantly colder or warmer than normal.

For more information, contact Jennifer Moehlmann at (515) 281-8518.

MOTOR FUELS SURVEY

Self-Serve	November 15	December 15	Change
Regular Unleaded	1.43	1.42	-0.01
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.41	1.39	-0.02
Premium Unleaded	1.55	1.53	-0.02
Diesel	1.51	1.50	-0.01
Full-Serve	November 15	December 15	Change
Regular Unleaded	1.61	1.70	+0.09
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	1.60	1.65	+0.05
Premium Unleaded	1.70	1.85	+0.15
Diesel	1.62	1.59	-0.03

HEATING FUELS SURVEY

	November 17	December 15	Change
Propane	1.01	1.03	+0.02
#2 Heating Oil	1.14	1.15	+0.01
Natural Gas	4.45	6.66	+2.21

AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES

	November 15	December 15	Change
Ames	1.48	1.43	-0.05
Cedar Rapids	1.37	1.43	+0.06
Council Bluffs	1.40	1.36	-0.04
Davenport	1.37	1.35	-0.02
Des Moines	1.41	1.41	No change
Dubuque	1.42	1.43	+0.01
Fort Dodge	1.44	1.43	-0.01
Iowa City	1.47	1.43	-0.04
Sioux City	1.38	1.34	-0.04
Waterloo	1.35	1.30	-0.05
Webster City	1.54	1.47	-0.07
Average Metro Price	1.40	1.41	+0.01

AVERAGE SELF-SERVE UNLEADED PRICES IN RURAL IOWA

	November 15	December 15	Change
Northeast	1.46	1.38	-0.08
Northwest	1.39	1.41	+0.02
Southeast	1.45	1.41	-0.04
Southwest	1.45	1.46	+0.01
Rural Area Average	1.47	1.41	-0.06

WHOLESALE PRICES IN METROPOLITAN AREAS AROUND IOWA

Unleaded (cents per gallon)	November 13	December 11
Des Moines	89.78	88.54
Dubuque	90.57	88.92
Diesel Fuel (cents per gallon)	November 13	December 11
Des Moines	89.63	90.93
Dubuque	90.85	91.73

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JANUARY SIGN UP FOR COUNTIES TO EVALUATE ANIMAL CONFINEMENT SITES

DES MOINES – Counties that want to evaluate the proposed sites for large confinement facilities must formally notify the DNR by Jan. 31, 2004.

“This is an opportunity for the counties to have input and some control on the type of structures proposed,” said Reza Khosravi, acting supervisor of the DNR animal feeding section.

To have that opportunity, counties must adopt and file a construction evaluation resolution and submit that to the DNR between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2004. The resolution will allow counties to use the master matrix to evaluate construction permit applications received from Feb. 1, 2004, to Jan. 31, 2005.

Eighty-seven counties filed resolutions in 2003.

Producers in counties that file the resolutions must meet higher standards than other permitted sites. They must earn points on the master matrix by choosing a site and using practices that reduce impacts on the environment and the community.

Participating counties must evaluate and make a recommendation on all construction permit applications submitted to the DNR or they forfeit the right to evaluate sites until the next sign-up period.

Counties that have adopted a resolution should mail it to Tammie Krausman at the DNR, 502 East Ninth Street, Des Moines, IA 50319 or fax it to 515-281-6794. Starting this year, sign-ups will occur annually during the month of January.

Additional information will be available in regional meetings to be co-hosted by the Iowa State Association of Counties and the DNR during January. Or, check the DNR website under animal feeding operations at www.iowadnr.com.

For more information, contact Tammie Krausman at (515) 281-8382.

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MAKE-UP TESTS FOR PRIVATE MANURE APPLICATORS BEGIN IN JANUARY

DES MOINES – The DNR is offering make-up tests for private or confinement site manure applicators who want to renew their certificates but missed a training session during the last three years.

“About 170 private applicators will need to take the make-up test if they plan to continue as confinement site applicators,” said Jeff Prier, a specialist in the Spencer DNR field office.

We are sending out letters this week to those people whose certificates expire in 2003 and who need to take a make-up test, Prier said.

Makeup tests can be taken at any of the following times and locations, but pre-registration is required. Pre-register by calling a DNR field office at the numbers listed below.

- **Northeast:** 563-927-2640, Jan.20 or Feb. 2, 9 a.m., F & M Bank, Manchester
- **North Central:** 641-424-4073, Jan.6, 9 a.m., Reg Johnson Auditorium at Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls; or Jan. 7, 9 a.m., Lime Creek Nature Center, Mason City
- **Northwest:** 712-262-4177, Jan. 22, 1 p.m., Room 108, Iowa Lakes Community College, Spencer; or Feb. 3, 1 p.m., American State Bank, Sioux Center
- **Southwest:** 712-243-1934, Jan. 21 or Feb. 18, 9 a.m., DNR Field Office 4, 1401 Sunnyside Lane, Atlantic
- **South Central:** 515-725-0268, Jan. 27, Feb. 3 or Feb. 10, 2 p.m., DNR Field Office 5, 401 SW 7th, Suite 1, Des Moines
- **Southeast:** 319-653-2135, Jan. 28 or Feb. 18, 10 a.m., DNR Field Office 6, 1023 W. Madison, Washington

Prier added that private applicators have a three-year certificate and are required by state law to take two hours of training annually, or pass one test to become certified.

Manure spread from a confinement feeding operation that has more than 500 animal units must be land applied by a certified confinement site (private) or commercial applicator.

About 1250 finishing swine, 500 beef or immature dairy cattle, or 350 mature dairy cattle are equivalent to 500 animal units.

For more information, contact Jeff Prier, at 712-262-4177.

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PRODUCER PENALIZED FOR NOT HAVING MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN

DES MOINES – The Department of Natural Resources recently issued an administrative order and \$1,500 penalty to Rick VanRoekel of Sheldon for failure to submit a manure management plan. VanRoekel has appealed the order.

“We weren’t out looking for producers without MMPs, but we found this as the result of a fish kill investigation,” said Gene Tinker, coordinator of the DNR animal feeding operations.

In addition to not submitting a plan to the DNR and county supervisors in the counties where manure is applied, VanRoekel was cited for not paying the \$0.10 per animal unit indemnity fee, not paying the \$250 filing fee and removal of manure without an approved MMP.

Tinker reminds producers who need an MMP but don’t have one that they can still send one in until March 1, 2004, without being assessed a penalty for not having a plan.

“Until March 1, the DNR will not be actively looking for producers without plans, but the penalty will apply if we find someone without one while investigating a complaint or other potential violation,” Tinker said.

Most producers with an animal unit capacity of more than 500 in confinement are required to have a manure management plan on file with the DNR.

All producers who submit an original or first-time MMP must pay a \$250 filing fee and the indemnity fees. They will also be required to have a phosphorus-index based plan sooner than other producers.

Plans must be submitted on DNR forms, available on the DNR website at <http://www.state.ia.us/epd/wastewtr/feedlot/manure.htm>.

More information, including a list of MMP developers and examples of application agreements, is available on the Iowa Manure Management Action Group’s website at <http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/immag/ppr.html>.

For more information about how to fill out a plan or who needs one, call any of the following local DNR field offices:

- Manchester, 563-927-2640
- Mason City, 641-424-4073
- Spencer, 712-262-4177
- Atlantic, 712-243-1934
- Des Moines, 515-725-0268
- Washington, 319-653-2135

For more information, contact Gene Tinker, Coordinator, 515-281-3103.

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DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- North Iowa Wood Products, Inc., of Belmond, was ordered to stop open burning of prohibited solid waste, to stop improper dumping or permitting of dumping of solid waste and to properly dispose of all solid waste and trade waste. The company was also ordered to submit permit applications for all unpermitted emission points at its facility, to comply with construction permit requirements and to pay a \$4,000 penalty.
- Russell and Kay Barkema and K.R. Construction Inc., of Belmond, were ordered to stop open burning of prohibited solid waste and to stop improper dumping or permitting of dumping of solid waste at the North Iowa Wood Products facility. The company was also ordered to properly dispose all solid waste and trade waste and to pay a \$7,000 penalty. The K.R. Construction property is located adjacent to the North Iowa Wood Products property. The order has been appealed.
- Siouxland Energy and Livestock Cooperative, d.b.a. SELC, of Sioux Center, was ordered to submit air quality construction permit applications for all unpermitted air emission units at its facility, comply with air quality construction permit requirements in the future and complete and maintain all required recordkeeping and testing. SELC was also ordered to complete additional stack testing for its carbon dioxide scrubber, submit the results of the stack testing to the DNR and properly operate and maintain its wastewater disposal system. In addition, SELC was ordered to submit a compliance plan for achieving compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit, comply with hazardous condition notification requirements in the future and pay a \$10,000 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Con-Struct, Incorporated, of Ames, was ordered to comply with asbestos removal and notification procedures in the future and pay a \$1,000 penalty. The order is in regards to the demolition of an apartment building in Ames. The penalty has been paid.

- Walcott Collision, Inc., of Walcott, was ordered to maintain and operate control equipment in a manner to minimize air emissions, operate the waterwash control system when the spray paint booth at the facility is operating, and to pay a \$1,250 penalty. The penalty has been paid.
- Kent Kiburz, of Winterset, was ordered to stop the illegal disposal of solid waste, properly dispose of solid waste at his facility, submit documentation of proper disposal to the DNR and pay a \$2,500 penalty. The order is in regards to Kiburz' property in Humboldt County. The order has been appealed.
- Boyer's Sand and Rock, Inc. and William Boyer, of Hawarden, were ordered to permanently close underground storage tanks (USTs) or fill the USTs in place and conduct a soil and groundwater investigation and submit a closure report to the DNR, and pay a \$2,380 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- Dynamic Investments, Inc., of Dallas Center, and Casey's General Stores, Inc., of Ankeny, have been ordered to cease future violations of underground storage tank (UST) operation and maintenance rules by assuring that upon the sale or transfer of a UST site, all historical records are maintained according to DNR rules. The order is in regards to two USTs in Wapello. Dynamic Investments has been ordered to pay a \$1,950 penalty.
- Hidden River Campground, of Tipton, was ordered to properly maintain and monitor continuous disinfection facilities and to pay a \$1,000 penalty. The penalty has been paid. The order is in regards to drinking water.
- Swine Graphics Enterprises, L.P., of Des Moines, was ordered to comply with minimum manure control requirements, provide documentation that an employee training program and manure handling protocol have been developed and implemented, and pay a \$5,000 penalty. The order is in regards to a confinement nursery/swine finishing operation in Monroe County. The penalty has been paid.
- Midwest Farmers Cooperative, of Sheldon, was ordered to comply with minimum manure control and manure release reporting requirements and to pay a \$2,000 penalty.
- Jeff Holland, of Winnebago County, was ordered to comply with minimum manure control, lagoon freeboard and manure release reporting requirements, to remove and control woody and vegetative growth on the lagoon berms, to comply with all requirements pertaining to the burial of dead animals and to pay a \$5,500 penalty. The order has been appealed.
- William Day, of Homestead, was ordered to stop the illegal disposal of solid waste and to properly dispose of all discarded appliances and solid waste currently on-site and provide documentation of proper disposal to the DNR. Or, Day could submit a Notice of Intent to obtain a storm water discharge permit, submit a Pollution

Prevention Plan to the DNR and submit an application for a permit to demanufacture discarded appliances. Regardless of the option selected, Day was also ordered to pay a \$2,000 penalty.

- Twin Lakes Sanitary Sewer District, of Rockwell City, was ordered to promptly report all bypass occurrences as required by rule, cease prohibited discharges, submit an engineering report regarding collection system adequacy and pay a \$5,000 penalty. The order is in regards to a sewage leak into North Twin Lake in July.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued in settlement of an administrative order or as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

- Bruty Lumber, of Washington, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding open burning and improper dumping of solid waste. Amendments to the original order include a \$1,000 penalty and \$1,000 Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). The SEP will be paid to the Washington County Conservation Board. The penalty and SEP have been paid.
- Bernard H. Cohrs and Cohrs Construction, Inc., d.b.a. Cohrs Gravel Pit, of Spirit Lake, have agreed to a consent amendment regarding open burning and improper dumping of solid waste. Amendments to the original order include a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP). As part of the SEP, Cohrs will donate construction and landscape supplies and labor in the amount of \$7,000 to the DNR Wildlife Unit.
- Monsanto Company, of Aplington, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding air quality construction permit requirements. Amendments to the original order include the addition of the statements “Monsanto neither admits nor denies the following Statement of Facts” and “Monsanto Company denies liability for the violations alleged in Administrative Order No. 2002-AQ-49,” and a \$2,000 penalty. The penalty has been paid.
- Wells’ Dairy, of LeMars, has agreed to a consent amendment regarding wastewater issues and agreed to resolve the issues without admission of facts, conclusions of law or adjudication of issues by third parties. Wells’ Dairy also agreed to complete a \$5,000 a Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to the Plymouth County Chapter of Pheasants Forever in lieu of a penalty.
- The City of Dayton is appealing an administrative order regarding wastewater, but proceeding with planning, design and construction of facility improvements to achieve compliance with effluent limits. The City has agreed, in an amended administrative order, to make a \$5,000 payment to the Fish and Game Trust Fund in lieu of a penalty.

For more information, contact Jessie Rolph at (515) 281-5131.